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FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
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AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN
AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
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COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, PINS, MILI, VS

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SUBJECT: VIET-NAM CEASE-FIRE WEEKLY ASSESSMENT, JULY 10-16,1974

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

PART I -- SUMMARY.

1. IN MR-1 THE NUMBER OF VIOLATIONS WAS UP ON JULY 14, POSSIBLY DUE TO THE LOCAL ELECTIONS THAT DAY. THE OTHER SIX DAYS WERE RELATIVELY CALM. IN THUA THIEN PROVINCE THE RVN MARINES SUCCESSFULLY DEFENDED AGAINST INCREASED NVA ACTIVITY, KILLING 36 OF THE ENEMY. THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY IN QUANG TIN PROVINCE REMAINED HIGH AS OPERATION QUANG TRUNG 374 CONTINUED, WITH THE SECOND REGIMENT THIRD DIVISION CONTINUING TO DEFEAT THE NVA IN ALL ENCOUNTERS. QUANG NGAI WAS THE MOST ACTIVE PROVINCE; HALF THE ABFS THERE OCCURRED ON ELECTION DAY (JULY 14). INCIDENTS AND CASUALTIES WERE BOTH HIGHER IN MR-2. ACTION WAS HEAVY IN DARLAC AND KONTUM PROVINCES. IN KONTUM PROVINCE THE MINH QUY HOSPITAL WAS HIT BY AN 82 MM MORTAR ROUND, KILLING TWO PATIENTS AND WOUNDING SEVEN. TRAFFIC ON ROUTE QL 19 EAST OF PLEIKU WAS INTERDICTED, BUT CLEARED ON JULY 17. AN R.F. MULTI-BATTALION SWEEP IN AN ENEMY BASE AREA, PHU YEN PROVINCE, RESULTED IN MANY ENEMY CASUALTIES, AND A SIGNIFICANT NUMBER OF ENEMY WEAPONS, MATERIAL AND BUILDING DESTROYED. SAPPERS STRUCK A BRITISH TANKER IN NHA TRANG HARBOR, AND A POL/AMMO DUMP AT NHA TRANG AIRPORT DURING THE WEEK. IN MR-3 THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS WAS UP, DUE IN LARGE PART TO A HIGH INCIDENT RATE ON ELECTION DAY. CASUALTY FIGURES WERE ON A PAR WITH LAST WEEK. ENEMY USE OF ARTILLERY WAS UP, BUT RVNAF ARTILLERY USE DROPPED. IN LONG KHANH, ROUTE QL 1 WAS CLEARED AFTER FOUR DAYS OF BLOCKAGE. ENEMY ACTIVITY ROSE SHARPLY IN THE LATTER PART OF THE WEEK IN MR-4, PARTICULARLY IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE AND BA XUYEN PROVINCE. SEVERAL INCIDENTS WERE DIRECTED AGAINST THE ELECTIONS, INCLUDING THE SHOOTING DOWN OF A HELICOPTER PICKING UP A BALLOT BOX IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE AND A MORTAR ATTACK ON AN AN XUYEN POLLING PLACE. ENEMY ACTIVITY IN VINH LONG PROVINCE WAS THE HIGHEST IN SEVERAL WEEKS ON ELECTION DAY. THE FIRST REGULAR PLENARY SESSION OF THE ICCS SINCE APRIL 17 CONVENED ON JULY 17 UNDER INDONESIAN
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CHAIRMANSHIP. THE DRV/PRG BOYCOTT OF THE FPJMT CONTINUES, AS DOES THE PRG BOYCOTT OF THE TPJMC. COLONEL JOHN MADISION ARRIVED IN SAIGON TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES AS CHEIF OF THE USDEL TO THE FPJMT. THE COMMUNISTS CONDEMNED AIR STRIKES BY VNAF ON COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED PORTIONS OF TAY NINH PROVINCE ALLEGING HEAVY LOSS OF LIFE AND PROPERTY. THE DRV ACCUSED THE US OF VIOLATING DRV AIR SPACE WITH TWO OVERFLIGHTS JULY 10. THE DELIVERY OF FOUR F5-E AIRCRAFT WAS CITED BY THE PRG AS "UNDENIABLE PROOF" OF CONTINUED US MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAM. THE HANOI ARMY NEWSPAPER "QUAN DOI NHAN DAN" CHARACTERIZED THE GVN USE OF COMMANDO TACTICS AGAINST TARGETS IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS AS "ANOTHER SERIOUS WAR MOVE" TO BE "PUNISHED." THE SUCCESS OF THE VENTURE WAS NOT MENTIONED.

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PART II -- ICCS.

2. THE FIRST REGULAR ICCS PLENARY SESSION SINCE APRIL 17 CONVENED ON JULY 17 UNDER INDONESIAN CHAIRMANSHIP. THIS WAS MADE POSSIBLE BY AN INDONESIAN COMPROMISE OVER DISPUTES CONCERNING AGENDA FOR 108TH SESSION.

3. THE US MADE ITS THIRD CONTRIBUTION OF $1.2 MILLION DOLLARS TO THE ICCS FOR ITS SECOND BUDGET YEAR (1974-75) ON JULY 17.

PART III -- FPJMT, TPJMC, AND RELATED MATTERS.

4. THE BOYCOTT OF BOTH THE FPJMT AND TPJMC FORA BY THE PRG AND DRV DELEGATIONS CONTINUED. COLONEL JOHN H. MADISON ARRIVED IN SAIGON TO ASSUME HIS DUTIES AS THE NEW CHIEF OF THE USDEL TO THE FPJMT.

PART IV -- COMMUNIST MEDIA.

5. COMMUNISTS CONDEMN AIRSTRIKES. VNAF ATTACKS ON COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS IN TAY NINH PROVINCE ON JULY 7 AND 8 EVOKED PROTESTS FROM THE DRV AND "PRG" FOREIGN MINISTRIES. THE STATEMENTS ALLEGED THAT THE RAIDS CAUSED HEAVY LOSSES OF LIFE AND PROPERTY TO THE LOCAL POPULACE. (SEE FBIS OKINAWA 140754 JULY 1974 AND FBIS SAIGON 131440 JULY 1974.)

6. HANOI BLASTS US OVERFLIGHTS. A JULY 15 STATEMENT OF THE DRV

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FOREIGN MINISTRY ACCUSED THE US OF VIOLATING DRV AIRSPACE ON TWO SEPARATE OCCASIONS JULY 10. THE STATEMENT AVERRED THAT SR-71 AIRCRAFT HAD CARRIED OUT "RECONNAISSANCE ACTIVITIES OVER MANY PROVINCES IN NORTH VIETNAM, INCLUDING THE HANOI AND HAIPHONG AREAS," IN "BRAZEN VIOLATION" OF THE PARIS AGREEMENT AND THE JOINT COMMUNIQUE. (SEE FBIS SAIGON 151135 JULY 74.)

7. F-5E DELIVERY DRAWS COMMUNIST COMMENT. THE COMMUNISTS' FOREIGN MINISTRIES ALSO TOOK NOTE OF THE DELIVERY OF FOUR MORE F-5E AIRCRAFT TO THE GVN LAST WEEK. A JULY 10 "PRG" STATEMENT CLAIMED THAT THE ACTION CONSTITUTED "NEW, UNDENIABLE PROOF" THAT THE US IS CONTINUING ITS MILITARY INVOLVEMENT IN VIET-NAM IN CONTRAVENTION OF ARTICLE 4 OF THE AGREEMENT. THE DRV ISSUED A SUPPORTING STATEMENT THE SAME DAY. (SEE FBIS SAIGON 101450 AND 101138 JULY 74; FBIS OKINAWA 110915 JULY 74.)

8. ARMY PAPER URGES RETALIATION FOR COMMANDO RAIDS. HANOI'S ARMY NEWSPAPER, "QUAN DOI NHAN DAN", CHARACTERIZED THE GVN'S USE OF COMMANDO TACTICS AGAINST TARGETS IN COMMUNIST-CONTROLLED AREAS AS "ANOTHER SERIOUS WAR MOVE" WHICH MUST BE "PUNISHED." THE JULY 12 COMMENTARY CITED A REUTERS DESPATCH OF THE PREVIOUS DAY WHICH SPECULATED THAT MORE SUCH RAIDS MAY BE PLANNED. (COMMENT: THE PAPER DID NOT REPEAT THE SUBSTANCE OF THE REUTERS REPORT, I.E.,

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THAT COMMANDOS HAD SEVERED THE COMMUNISTS' POL PIPELINE IN TWO LOCATIONS IN KONTUM PROVINCE. WHILE COMMUNIST MEDIA HAVE REPORTED THE JULY 15 MINING OF A SHIP IN NHA TRANG HARBOR, THEY HAVE NOT LINKED IT SPECIFICALLY TO GVN ACTIONS IN THE HIGHLANDS. END COMMENT.)

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PART V -- MR-1.

1. SECURITY SITUATION:

ACCORDING TO I CORPS HEADQUARTERS THERE WERE 112 COMMUNIST CEASEFIRE VIOLATIONS LAST WEEK. ON JULY 14 THERE WAS AN ELECTION-DAY HIGH-POINT OF 44 VIOLATIONS, BUT THE OTHER 6 DAYS WERE RELATIVELY CALM AND AVERAGED FEWER VIOLATIONS THAN EVEN THE PREVIOUS WEEK, THE CALMEST SINCE EARLY APRIL. THE GVN OPERATION IN NORTHERN QUANG TIN PROVINCE ACCOUNTS FOR MANY OF THE ENEMY DEAD REPORTED. GVN CASUALTIES: 65 KIA, 263 WIA. NVA/VC LOSSES: 249 KIA, 3 RETURNEES.

2. NORTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG TRI THE ENEMY UNSUCCESSFULLY ATTACKED TWO RF STRONG POINTS IN WESTERN HAI LANG DISTRICT. THE ENEMY ALSO SHELLED TWO GVN POSITIONS ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE.

3. IN THUA THIEN THE ENEMY MAINTAINED PRESSURE ON MARINE FORWARD POSITIONS. ON JULY 12, THE SECOND DAY OF ATTACK, ELEVEN POSITIONS WERE FIRED UPON OF WHICH 4 WERE LOST. THE ENEMY EXPENDED 400 ROUNDS IN THIS EFFORT. ON JULY 15, 5 STRONGPOINTS WERE ATTACKED AND 7 MEN DIED, BUT AT LEAST 36 OF THE ENEMY WERE KILLED IN THE SUCCESSFUL DEFENSE. PREVIOUSLY IN THIS AREA THE ENEMY HAD DEMANDED IN VAIN THAT GVN FORCES CEASE PLANTING AN ANTI-TANK MINE FIELD. ON JULY 9 THE DANANG-HUE RAILWAY WAS MINED BUT TRAFFIC WAS RESTORED THE FOLLOWING DAY.

4. SOUTH OF THE HAI VAN PASS:

IN QUANG NAM THERE WERE NO MAJOR MILITARY INCIDENTS, BUT THE MINE EXPLOSIONS, SHELLINGS AND GVN PATROLS CONTINUED AT A LOW LEVEL. HALF OF THE 96 ATTACKS BY FIRE TOOK PLACE ON ELECTION DAY.

5. IN QUANG TIN THE LEVEL OF MILITARY ACTIVITY REMAINED HIGH AS THE 2ND REGT. OF THE ARVN 3RD INFANTRY DIVISION CONTINUED

OPERATION QUANG TRUNG 374 IN NORTHERN TAM KY DISTRICT. THE OPERATION HAS PROVED A ONE-SIDED AFFAIR WITH THE COMMUNISTS LOSING BADLY IN EVERY ENCOUNTER. THE 3RD DIVISION CLAIMS 112 ENEMY KILLED FOR THE WEEK. REPORTED GOVERNMENT LOSSES WERE MINIMAL AND MOSTLY ATTRIBUTED TO MINES. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE COMMUNIST ACTIVITY WAS LIMITED TO ATTACKS BY FIRE.

6. THE ENEMY WAS MORE ACTIVE IN QUANG NGAI THAN ELSEWHERE IN

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I CORPS AND PARTICULARLY SO ON ELECTION DAY WHEN HALF OF THE
ENEMY SHELLINGS OCCURRED. IN MO DUC, SHELLINGS KILLED 6 AND
WOUNDED 19. IN DUC PHO MORTARS KILLED 5 AND WOUNDED 23 CIVILIANS.
ELECTION DAY MORTARS ALSO KILLED ONE AND WOUNDED 4 CIVILIANS
AT TU CUNG RESETTLEMENT HAMLET AND KILLED 1 AND WOUNDED 7
AT A VILLAGE OFFICE IN TU NGHIA DISTRICT. DURING THE WEEK
ENEMY ASSASSINATION TEAMS KILLED A HAMLET CHIEF FROM TU CUNG,
A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF, 2 PF AND A POLICEMAN.

7. ICCS:

THE INDONESIANS CONDUCTED 3 OBSERVATIONS OF ENEMY CEASEFIRE
VIOLATIONS IN ICCS REGION II. POLISH TEAM MEMBERS WITHDRAWN
FROM THE 3 REGION II SUB-REGION SITES FOR ROTATION LAST WEEK
HAVE YET TO BE REPLACED, BUT THE HEAD OF THE POLISH DELEGATION
REPORTEDLY EXPECTS A NEW CONTINGENT TO ARRIVE WITHIN THE WEEK.

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AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING

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COMUSMACTHAI
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PART VI -- MR-2.

1. SITUATION SUMMARY: THE TOTAL NUMBER OF MILITARY INCIDENTS BRIEFED IN MR-II INCREASED TO THE LEVEL OF TWO WEEKS AGO (138, VERSUS 116 LAST WEEK). ADDITIONALLY, THE INTENSITY OF THESE MORE RECENT INCIDENTS ALSO INCREASED AS REFLECTED BY THE NUMBER OF CASUALTIES ON BOTH SIDES, THE NUMBER OF WEAPONS CAPTURED AND THE AMOUNT OF MATERIEL LOST TO ENEMY SAPPER ATTACKS. THE NUMBER OF AIR STRIKES ROSE TO 131 FROM 90 REPORTED LAST WEEK. INCIDENTS IN BINH DINH, THE PROVINCE WHICH CONTINUES TO HAVE THE LARGEST NUMBER ALTHOUGH NOT NECESSARILY THE MOST IMPORTANT INCIDENTS, REMAINED STEADY AT 47. KONTUM PROVINCE WITH 24 INCIDENTS AND DARLAC WITH 10 INCIDENTS EXPERIENCED HEAVY ACTION.
MR-II HEADQUARTERS REPORTS 128 ENEMY KIA VERSUS 2 FRIENDLY KIA IN DARLAC AND 77 ENEMY KIA VERSUS 13 FRIENDLY IN KONTUM.
OTHER INCIDENTS BRIEFED WERE PLEIKU (17), BINH THUAN (12), PHU YEN (19), QUANG DUC (4) AND PHU BON (1). THERE WERE ALSO TWO IMPORTANT INCIDENTS IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE INVOLVING SAPPER ATTACKS IN NHA TRANG ON A BRITISH OIL TANKER IN HHE HARBOR AND THE SECTOR POL/AMMO DUMP AT THE AIRPORT. TOTAL GVN CASUALTIES REPORTED ARE 49 KIA, 140 WIA AND 18 MIA. COMMUNIST CASUALTIES ARE 375 KIA AND 1 CIA. THESE FIGURES ARE SIGNIFI-CANTLY HIGHER THAN ANY SINCE THE SECOND WEEK IN JUNE. THE 131 AIR STRIKES WERE CONCENTRATED IN FOUR PROVINCES: BINH DINH (44), KONTUM (42), PHU YEN (24) AND PLEIKU (21).

2. KONTUM: THERE WAS A MARKED INCREASE IN ENEMY MILITARY ACTIVITY OVER 14-15 JULY, MAINLY AGAINST ARVN AND RF INSTALLATIONS. IT EVIDENTLY DID NOT DISTURB THE CONDUCT THE PROVINCIAL COUNCIL ELECTIONS: INDEED, KONTUM PROVINCE HAD THE HIGHEST PERCENTAGE OF ELEGIBLE VOTERS PARTICIPATING FOR MR-II. EARLY IN THE PERIOD, ACTIVITY REMAINED RELATIVELY LIGHT, WITH SECTOR FORCES SUFFERING MORE CASUALTIES FROM BOOBY TRAPS THAN FROM GROUND ATTACKS. ABF'S INCREASED AGAINST MANG BUK SUB-SECTOR. THERE WERE FOUR MORTAR INCIDENTS AROUND THE CAMP AND AIRFIELD. SECTOR REPORTS THAT ELEMENTS OF THE 95-B NVA REGIMENT HAVE MOVED CLOSER TO CHUONG NGHIA, AND ARE LOCATED WEST OF THE SUB-SECTOR. THERE ARE ALSO UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE 28TH NVA REGIMENT IS ALSO MOVING TOWARDS CHUONG
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NGHIA. ON SEVERAL OCCASIONS IN THE PAST 95-B AND THE 28TH HAVE CONDUCTED JOINT OPERATIONS. THE MINH QUY HOSPITAL IN KONTUM CITY, RUN BY DR. PAT SMITH, WAS STRUCK BY AN 82MM MORTAR ROUND JULY 15. TWO PATIENTS WERE KILLED AND FIVE WOUNDED. DR. SMITH ORDERED TEMPORARY EVACUATION OF THE HOSPITAL, AS MORTAR ROUNDS (AT LEAST 120 DURING THE AFTERNOON) CONTINUED TO FALL IN THE VICINITY OF THE HOSPITAL. AN ARVN ARTILLERY UNIT LOCATED NEAR THE HOSPITAL MAY HAVE BEEN THE INTENDED TARGET. SUBSEQUENTLY THE ARVN ARTILLERY WAS RELOCATED AND THE HOSPITAL RESUMED NORMAL ACTIVITY.

3. PLEIKU: MILITARY ACTIVITY AGAINST LINES OF COMMUNICATION INCREASED. ON JULY 12 AN ESTIMATED PLATOON OF VC DESTROYED A BY-PASS GUTTER 70 PERCENT (ZA 186677) ON TL-14 IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE PROVINCE, BUT TRAFFIC WAS ONLY STOPPED A SHORT TIME. HOWEVER, QL-19, THE MAIN SUPPLY ROAD BETWEEN PLEIKU AND QUI NHON, CAME UNDER ATTACK OVER A DOZEN TIMES. THE ENEMY, AS OF THE MORNING OF 16 JULY, OCCUPIED BRIDGE #33 (BR 032517), AND TRAFFIC BETWEEN FB-92 (AR 945485), AND FB-94 (BR 145538) WAS STOPPED. AT LAST REPORT, QL-19 WAS STILL CLOSED. NVA FORCES MOUNTED HEAVY ABF'S AND GROUND ATTACKS JULY 15 ON FSB-333 (ZA 035450), OVER-RUNNING IT. IT WAS RETAKEN IN THE EARLY EVENING, WITH 11 ENEMY BODIES FOUND WITHIN THE FSB. FSB-522 (ZA 044425) WAS OVERRUN IN LATE AFTERNOON JULY 15; 100 ROUNDS OF ASSORTED INCOMING FIRE WERE FOLLOWED BY A GROUND ATTACK. FSB-261, ROUGHLY 3 KM EAST OF FSB-333, WAS ALSO ATTACKED.

4. DARLAC: THE COMBINED ARVN/RF/PF OPERATION INTO ENEMY BASE AREA 238 WHICH MET STRONG RESISTANCE LAST WEEK, HAD BETTER RESULTS THIS WEEK, AND PENETRATED ALMOST TO THE POINT OF THE EARLIER ADVANCE. THE ENEMY FIRED ABOUT 100 ROUNDS OF 82MM MORTAR AT ADVANCING ELEMENTS BUT WOUNDED ONLY ONE MAN. A 15-TRUCK CONVOY GOING FROM BAN ME THUOT TOWARDS PLEIKU ON QL-14 WAS ATTACKED BY B-40 AND SMALL ARMS FIRE JULY 15. THE CONVOY WAS 12 KM NORTHWEST OF BUON BLECK. THREE 2 1/2 TON TRUCKS WERE DESTROYED.

5. BINH DINH: PHU MY WAS AGAIN THE MOST ACTIVE DISTRICT, FOLLOWED BY TAM QUAN. THE ENEMY SUFFERED 42 KIA AND 3 CIA; FRIENDLY CASUALTIES WERE 22 KIA, 57 WIA AND 6 MIA.

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6. QUANG DUC: LATE IN THE EVENING OF JULY 15, 4 KM NORTHEAST OF BU PRANG, THREE LRRP TEAMS OF THE 53RD RECON CO MADE A SURPRISE ATTACK ON A SUSPECTED ENEMY LOCATION KILLING 15 COMMUNISTS, AND SEIZING 2 B-40 LAUNCHERS AND 3 AK-47'S. THE COMMUNISTS COUNTERED, AND RADIO CONTACT HAS BEEN LOST WITH ONE OF THE LRRP TEAMS.

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7. OTHER AREAS:

A. BINH THUAN: THE LEVEL OF COMMUNIST INITIATED INCIDENTS INCREASED LAST WEEK. THE INCIDENTS CONTINUE TO BE SCATTERED FAIRLY EVENLY THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE, BUT WERE CLUSTERED CLOSER TO QL-1 THAN IN THE PAST. GVN LOSSES WERE 7 KIA, 18 WIA AND ONE CIVILIAN KIDNAPPED. COMMUNIST LOSSES WERE REPORTED AS 22 KIA AND ONE CIA.

B. PHU YEN: THE RF MULTI-BATTALION SWEEP THROUGH ENEMY BASE AREA 236, WHICH BEGAN ON JULY 2, ENDED JULY 12 WHEN MAJOR COMPONENTS OF 4 OF THE 5 BATTALIONS WHICH PARTICIPATED, WITH-DREW. THE OPERATION RESULTED IN A HIGH NUMBER OF ENEMY CASUAL-TIES (117 KIA TO ONLY 4 FRIENDLY KIA AND 23 WIA). AND SIGNIFICANT AMOUNTS OF WEAPONS, MATERIEL AND BUILDINGS DESTROYED.

C. TUYEN DUC: TERRITORIALS MET THE ENEMY ON TWO OCCASIONS, WITH 11 ENEMY KIA AND NO GVN CASUALTIES.

8. ICCS: THE POLISH DELEGATION IN PLEIKU STATES THAT ITS REP-RESENTATIVES ARE EXPECTED TO BE BACK AT ALL REGION III TEAM SITES BY JULY 20. ALL OTHER DELEGATIONS REPORT FULL STRENGTH AND HAVE DELEGATES AT ALL TEAM SITES, BUT NO INVESTIGATIONS OR OBSERVATIONS HAVE BEEN REPORTED THIS WEEK. IN KHANH HOA PROVINCE THE NINH HOA ICCS TEAM WAS NOT REQUESTED TO INVESTIGATE THE JULY 11 SAPPER ATTACK ON A BRITISH SHIP AT NHA TRANG HARBOR. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, BEEN ASKED TO INVESTIGATE THE ATTACK ON THE NHA TRANG POL/AMMO SITE. THE ICCS TEAM HAS REFERRED THE REQUEST TO PLEIKU ALTHOUGH THREE INDONESIAN OFFICERS DID VISIT THE POL/AMMO SITE ON JULY 15.

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PART VII -- MR-3.

1. THE HIGH NUMBER OF INCIDENTS ON ELECTION DAY JULY 14 DROVE THE NUMBER OF INCIDENTS UP TO A LEVEL ABOVE THE PREVIOUS WEEK'S DESPITE THE ABSENCE OF MAJOR LARGE-SCALE ENGAGEMENTS. THE MOST NOTABLE ACTIVITY WAS NVA/VC INTERDICTION OF QL 1 IN EASTERN LONG KHANH PROVINCE FROM JULY 9 TO 13 ELIMINATED ONLY AFTER RF FORCES WERE AUGMENTED BY TWO ARVN BATTALIONS AND THE COMMUNIST FORCES WERE SUBJECTED TO EXTENSIVE BOMBING AND ARTILLERY FIRE. OTHERWISE, THE ENVIRONMENT OF MR 3 RESEMBLES THAT OF THE LULL BEFORE THE STORM. GVN FORCES ARE RESTING, REFITTING, AND REDEPLOYING IN PREPARATION FOR A RENEWAL OF HEAVY NVA/VC ATTACKS WHILE COMMUNIST FORCES ARE BELIEVED TO BE ORGANIZING AND DEPLOYING FOR A NEW HIGH POINT OF MILITARY ACTIVITY EXPECTED TO BEGIN IN LATE JULY AND POSSIBLY EQUAL OR EXCEED THE HIGH LEVEL OF CAMPAIGN OF MAY/JUNE.

2. THE TOTAL NUMBER OF INCIDENTS IN MR 3 THIS WEEK WAS 229 COMPARED WITH 193 IN THE PREVIOUS WEEK. ELECTION DAY, JULY 14, REGISTERED 66 INCIDENTS COMPARED WITH A DAILY AVERAGE OF 27 DURING THE REST OF THE WEEK. MR 3 HQ REPORTED 36 GROUND ATTACKS, 115 ATTACKS BY FIRE, AND 9 COMBINED GROUND AND ABF'S. THERE WERE 26 MINING INCIDENTS AND 43 MISCELLANEOUS INCIDENTS, MANY OF WHICH WERE DIRECTED AGAINST GVN PROVINCE COUNCIL ELECTION ACTIVITIES. BINH DUONG PROVINCE CONTINUED TO BE THE MAIN CENTER OF MILITARY

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ACTIVITY WITH 68 INCIDENTS DURING THIS PERIOD, MOST OF WHICH OCCURRED IN THE BEN CAT BATTLE AREA WHERE THERE WERE SPORADIC CLASHES AND EXCHANGES OF FIRE BETWEEN ARVN UNITS AND THE ENTRENCHED NVA/VC IN THE AREA.

3. COMMUNIST GUNNERS REPORTEDLY FIRED 1,862 ROUNDS OF ARTILLERY AND MORTAR DURING THIS PERIOD COMPARED WITH 1,219 LAST WEEK. RVNAF ARTILLERY FIRING DECLINED MODERATELY TO 21,988 ROUNDS COMPARED WITH 23,733 FIRED THE PREVIOUS PERIOD. THE VNAF FLEW 189 FIXED WING SORTIES AND 322 HELICOPTER GUNSHIP SORTIES DURING THIS PERIOD, CLAIMING 167 NVA/VC KILLED AND 10 SECONDARY EXPLOSIONS. ONE F-5A AIRCRAFT WAS LOST DURING A MISSION OVER TAY NINH AND 2 HELICOPTERS AND ONE OBSERVATION AIRCRAFT WERE LIGHTLY DAMAGED
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DURING THE WEEK.

4. REPORTED CASUALTY FIGURES REFLECTED THE LACK OF MAJOR LARGE-SCALE ENGAGEMENTS. REPORTED GVN LOSSES WERE 57 KIA, 258 WIA, AND 40 MIA COMPARED WITH 53 KIA, 271 WIA, AND 5 MIA DURING THE LAST PERIOD. THE COMMUNISTS REPORTEDLY SUFFERED 45 KILLED AND 3 CAPTURED COMPARED WITH 53 KIA AND 8 CIA DURING THE LAST REPORTING PERIOD. THERE WERE 8 RALLIERS.

5. ARVN CONTINUED TO TAKE CASUALTIES IN THE BEN CAT AREA, MAINLY FROM ABF'S. ON JULY 9, DURING ONE COMMUNIST BARRAGE 3 KMS NW OF BEN CAT, ELEMENTS OF THE 9TH ARVN REGT (5TH DIV) SUFFERED ONE KILLED AND 28 WOUNDED, INCLUDING THE COMMANDER OF THE 9TH RECONNAISSANCE COMPANY. ON THE FOLLOWING DAY, THE 318TH MOBILE TASK FORCE LOCATED 3 KMS SW OF BEN CAT SUSTAINED AN 82MM MORTAR AND 107MM ROCKET ATTACK RESULTING IN 4 KILLED AND 17 WOUNDED. ON JULY 12 VC SHELLING WOUNDED 11 MEMBERS OF THE 318TH MOBILE TASK FORCE IN THE SAME AREA.

6. IN LONG KHANH PROVINCE A WELL-ENTRENCHED ENEMY ONCE AGAIN INTERDICTED ROUTE QL 1 IN THE VICINITY OF THE RUNG LA RESETTLEMENT SITE ON JULY 9 HARASSING RVNAF FORCES WITH MORTAR FIRE AND SMALL ARMS WHENEVER AN ATTEMPT WAS MADE TO CLEAR THE BLOCKAGE. TORRENTIAL RAINS IN THE AREA SLOWED GVN CLEARING EFFORTS AND INITIALLY MINIMIZED THE EFFECT OF VNAF NAPALM ATTACKS ON THE COMMUNISTS. A TASK FORCE CONSISTING OF RF FORCES, ELEMENTS OF THE 81ST RANGERS, AND TWO BATTALIONS FROM THE 7TH RANGER GROUP, WELL SUPPORTED BY ARTILLERY AND AIR, SUCCEEDED ON JULY 13 IN PUSHING THE COMMUNISTS OUT OF POSITIONS FROM WHICH THEY HAD PUT HARASSING FIRE ON THE ROAD. TRAFFIC HAS SINCE MOVED FREELY. IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF LONG KHANH PROVINCE COMMUNIST FORCES, BELIEVED NOW TO BE ELEMENTS OF THE 274TH NVA REGT, STILL OCCUPY AREAS AROUND BAO BINH AND INTERMITTENTLY EXCHANGED FIRE WITH RF FORCES ASSIGNED TO THAT DISTRICT.

7. IN LONG AN A TERRORIST THREW A GRENADE INTO A BILLIARD ROOM IN BINH PHUOC DISTRICT KILLING 2 PERSONS AND WOUNDING 21, INCLUDING

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THE VILLAGE COUNCIL CHAIRMAN AND A DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF. IN TAY NINH A TRUONG XUAN HAMLET CHIEF WAS FORTUNATE; A TERRORIST THREW A GRENADE AS HE PASSED ON HIS HONDA, LEAVING THE SCOOTER 70 PERCENT DAMAGED BUT THE HAMLET CHIEF UNINJURED.
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8. NEAR THE COAST IN PHUOC TUY PROVINCE AN RF COMPANY MADE CONTACT WITH A COMMUNIST BATTALION SIZE FORCE RESULTING IN 12 NVA/VC KILLED AND ONE 82MM MORTAR DESTROYED, BUT AT A COST TO THE RF OF 10 KILLED, 3 WOUNDED AND 15 MIA.

9. ICCS: ONLY ONE "OBSERVATION" WAS MADE IN MR 3 THIS WEEK. ON JULY 12 INDODEL VISITED A SCHOOL AND PAGODA IN BEN CAT DISTRICT WHICH HAD BEEN DAMAGED BY AN NVA/VC ROCKET ATTACK DURING THE PREVIOUS NIGHT. DURING THE ATTACK ONE CIVILIAN WAS WOUNDED, THE SCHOOL WAS DESTROYED 30 PERCENT AND THE PAGAODA WAS DESTROYED 50 PERCENT. ON JULY 9 IN BIEN HOA, INDODEL "OBSERVED" THE DESTRUCTION OF GVN AMMUNITION AND WAS JOINED BY THE IRANIAN DELEGATION ON JULY 10 IN AN "OBSERVATION" OF ANOTHER DESTRUCTION OF GVN AMMUNITION. ACCORDING TO INDODEL, THE POLES HAVE RECENTLY SKIPPED THEIR TURN AS CHAIRMAN AND HAVE BEEN PARTICIPATING IN A MINIMUM OF EVENTS IN ICCS BECAUSE OF THE SMALL TEAM OF THREE OFFICERS WHICH ARE PRESENT IN REGION V CAUSED BY THE CURRENT PERSONNEL CHANGEOVER OF THE POLISH DELEGATION.

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 IO-14 DPW-01 AID-20

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07

PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 DRC-01 OMB-01

TRSE-00 ABF-01 SR-02 ORM-03 /172 W
---------- 017960
R 171010Z JUL 74
FM AMEMBASSY SAIGON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6885
INFO AMEMBASSY BANGKOK
AMCONSUL BIEN HOA
AMEMBASSY BUDAPEST
AMCONSUL CAN THO
AMEMBASSY CANBERRA
AMCONSUL DANANG
AMEMBASSY PARIS
USDEL JEC PARIS UNN

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AMEMBASSY JAKARTA
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMCONSUL NHA TRANG
AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH
AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
AMEMBASSY TOKYO
AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE
AMEMBASSY WARSAW
AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON
USLO PEKING
CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO/ SAIGON/AOSOP-OR
USDEL FPJMT SAIGON
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VIII -- MR-4.

1. SECURITY SITUATION: (A) OVERALL SECURITY: MILITARY ACTIVITY IN THE DELTA REMAINED LOW DURING THE FIRST PART OF THE WEEK, BUT INCREASED SHARPLY JULY 13 AND PEAKED AT 153 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS JULY 14. THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS DIRECTED AGAINST PROVINCE COUNCIL ELECTION POLLS AND VOTERS. MR4 G-2 BELIEVES VC/NVA HAVE LAUNCHED ROUTINE 7-10 DAY HIGHPOINT DESIGNED TO COINCIDE WITH GVN PROVINCE ELECTIONS AND APPROACHING JULY 20 ANNIVERSARY OF GENEVA ACCORDS. HE NOTED THAT ACTIVITY BEGAN INTENSIFYING IN VC MR2 A WEEK AGO, WHILE ELECTION-DAY SURGE WAS MOST PRONOUNCED IN VC MR3.

(B) STATISTICAL SUMMARY: CORPS REPORTS 469 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS (207 LAST WEEK) CONSISTING OF 69 GROUND ATTACKS (22), NO INFILTRATIONS (2), 312 ABF (123), 77 HARASSMENTS (51), 5 SABOTAGE (4) AND 6 TERRORIST INCIDENTS (5). LOSSES ON BOTH SIDES ALSO INCREASED SHARPLY. GVN LOSSES WERE 201 KIA (142), 887 WIA (576), 110 MIA (61), AND ONE CREW-SERVED (4) AND 152 INDIVIDUAL (137) WEAPONS LOST. CORPS CLAIMS 535 VC/NVA KIA (390), 48 PRISONERS AND SUSPECTS CAPTURED (35), AND 16 CREW-SERVED (11) AND 159 INDIVIDUAL (137) WEAPONS SEIZED.

(C) NORTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN DINH TUONG PROVINCE DECREASED SLIGHTLY, BUT THERE WERE SEVERAL INTENSE ATTACKS AGAINST OUT-POSTS AND OPERATING BASES IN CAI BE AND CAI LAY DISTRICTS. DON BINH OB, 11 KM W OF CAI BE AND DEFENDED BY 102 TROOPS FROM THE 450 RF BATTALION, WAS OVERRUN. ONLY 43 SOLDIERS AND OFFICERS FROM THE OB HAVE SINCE REPORTED TO NEIGHBORING GVN

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POSITIONS. TWO OTHER OUTPOSTS IN CAI BE AND ONE IN CAI LAY WERE
ALSO OVERRUN. A PUBLIC WORKS TRUCK RECEIVED AK-47 AND B-40
FIRE ON HIGHWAY 4 IN SAM GIANG (D) AT 2020 HOURS. KIEN PHONG
WAS QUIETER THIS WEEK. THE NEWLY-FORMED 502C VC BATTALION
LAUNCHED TWO GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST AN OUTPOST IN BA CHU (H),
PHONG MY (V), CAO LANH (D) RESULTING IN A TEMPORARY OVERRUN.
KIEN VAN DISTRICT HQ WAS SHELLED TWICE JULY 14 (7 ROUNDS 82MM).
VC DISTRIBUTED ELECTION BOYCOTT LEAFLETS IN TAN PHU (V), THANH
BINH (D). IN KIEN TUONG PROVINCE, ACTIVITY REMAINED CENTERED
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IN NHON HOA AND NHON NINH VILLAGES, KIEN BINH (D). AN ATTACK
ON THE NHON HOA VILLAGE OFFICE WAS THWARTED BY THE UNEXPECTED
PRESENCE OF A PF PLATOON TEMPORARILY LOCATED THERE. VOTERS
FROM NHON HOA AND NINH CAST THEIR BALLOTS IN BAC HOA
VILLAGE FOR FEAR OF VC/NVA ACTION, BUT NO INCIDENTS WERE
REPORTED NEAR ANY POLLING PLACES IN KIEN TUONG. CHAU DOC,
AN GIANG AND GO CONG PROVINCES REMAINED QUIET. THE CHAU DOC
DESERTER AND DRAFT-DODGER ROUND-UP HAS NETTED 130 DESERTERS
AND 926 DRAFT-DODGERS SINCE JUNE 4.

(D) KIEN GIANG PROVINCE: ACTIVITY IN KIEN GIANG INCREASED
DRAMATICALLY (105 VC/NVA-INITIATED INCIDENTS THIS WEEK
COMPARED TO 25 LAST WEEK) AND THERE WERE SEVERAL INCIDENTS
DIRECTED AGAINST THE ELECTION. SIX VILLAGES RECEIVED MORTAR
AND SMALL ARMS FIRE ON JULY 13 AND 14. HEAVY MORTARING OF
PHI THONG VILLAGE FORCED VILLAGERS TO FLEE 5 KM SOUTH
TO RACH GIA REDUCING VOTER TURNOUT IN THE VILLAGE TO ABOUT 50.
PROVINCE LOST COMMUNICATIONS WITH TWO OTHER VILLAGE HEADQUARTERS AS
A RESULT OF MORTAR FIRE. IN ONE,AN ARVN HELICOPTER WAS SHOT
DOWN WHILE PICKING UP BALLOT BOXES. COMMUNICATION WITH 7 OB'S
WAS ALSO LOST, AND 10 OTHERS RECEIVED GROUND ATTACKS WITH
RESULTS UNKNOWN. A B-40 FIRED INTO RACH GIA RESULTED IN ONE
CIVILIAN KILLED AND SEVEN WOUNDED. EXPLOSIVES DAMAGED
THE ONLY BRIDGE INTO HA TIEN DISTRICT TOWN, TEMPORARILY
HALTING TRAFFIC.

(E) CENTRAL DELTA: KIEN HOA PROVINCE REPORTS NO SECURITY
PROBLEM DURING THE ELECTION. ACTIVITY FOR THE WEEK INCREASED
SLIGHTLY, BUT THERE WERE NO SERIOUS THREATS AGAINST GVN POSITIONS.
IN VINH BINH PROVINCE, THE 523RD AND 407TH RF BATTALIONS KILLED
45 VC/NVA FIVE KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST OF CAU KE WHILE SUSTAINING 7
KIA, 26 WIA, AND 2 MIA. THE MOST SERIOUS ELECTION-RELATED INCIDENT
WAS A DIRECT M-79 HIT ON A BALLOT BOX IN THONG HOA (V), CAU KE (D).
THE INCIDENT OCCURRED BEFORE THE POLLS OPENED, WITH NO CASUALTIES.
VINH LONG REPORTS THAT ELECTION DAY WAS THE MOST ACTIVE DAY IN
SEVERAL WEEKS. BUT VC/NVA TARGETING OF ELECTIONS WAS LIMITED TO
SCATTERED HARASSMENT OF VOTERS. MINH DUC DISTRICT TOWN RECEIVED
ONE MORTAR ROUND EARLY JULY 14, WITH NO DAMAGE. IN PHONG DINH
PROVINCE, THE LEVEL OF ACTIVITY INCREASED BUT INTENSITY REMAINED
LOW. THE ONLY GROUND ATTACK OCCURRED FOUR KILOMETERS SOUTHEAST
OF PHONG THUAN WHERE A PF PLATOON WAS ATTACKED IN MID-AFTERNOON

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RESULTING IN 3 PF WIA AND ONE MIA.

(F) SOUTHERN DELTA: ACTIVITY IN BA XUYEN PROVINCE INCREASED SHARPLY AFTER A VERY QUIET WEEK LAST WEEK. TWO GROUND ATTACKS AGAINST PSDF UNITS IN RACH RE (H), THANH PHU (V), MY XUYEN (D) AND KINH XANG (H), CHAU HUNG (V), THANH TRI (D) LEFT ONE DEPUTY HAMLET CHIEF KILLED, 6 PSDF WOUNDED, AND A HAMLET CHIEF MISSING IN BAC LIEU PROVINCE, A 100-MAN ELEMENT OF THE PHU LOI BATTALION MOVED BACK TO VINH CHAU DISTRICT, CONTRIBUTING TO A SLIGHT INCREASE IN INCIDENTS IN THE PROVINCE. MORE THAN HALF THE INCIDENTS WERE GVN-INITIATED, INDICATING THAT THE SECTOR MAY HAVE REGAINED SOME STABILITY AND ASSUMED A MORE AGGRESSIVE POSTURE AFTER A PERIOD OF HEAVY VC/NVA ACTIVITY EARLIER THIS YEAR. IN THE MOST SIGNIFICANT INCIDENT, RF AND PF TROOPS KILLED 30 VC/NVA IN A SWEEP OPERATION IN VINH PHU (V), PHUOC LONG (D) AT A COST OF 2 RF/ PF KILLED AND 2 WOUNDED IN CHUONG THIEN PROVINCE, ALL SIGNIFICANT ACTIVITY WAS DIRECTED AGAINST GVN OUTPOSTS AND UNIT POSITIONS. MOST ACTIVE AREA WAS PHUONG PHU AND LONG PHU VILLAGES NEAR THE BA XUYEN BORDER, WHERE FIVE OUTPOSTS AND THE PHUONG PHU VILLAGE OFFICE CAME UNDER GROUND ATTACK OR ABF. AN XUYEN PROVINCE REPORTS THE MOST SERIOUS ELECTION-RELATED INCIDENT. VOTERS GATHERED AT THE POLLS IN BA HING (H), THUAN HUNG (V), NAM CAN (D) WERE HIT BY AN 82MM MORTAR ROUND WHICH KILLED TWO AND WOUNDED SEVEN. ELSEWHERE IN THE PROVINCE, THE 446 RF BATTALION REPLACED THE 924 RF COMPANY AT MUONG DUONG OB NEAR THE QUAN LONG/DAM DOI DISTRICT BORDER ON JULY 12. THE OB HAD BEEN SUBJECT TO REGULAR VC/NVA SHELLING, BUT NO HARASSMENTS OR ATTACKS HAVE OCCURRED SINCE THE UNIT CHANGE (SEE LAST WEEK'S SITREP).

2. GVN AFFAIRS: VOTER TURNOUT IN MR4 FOR THE PROVINCIAL AND CITY COUNCIL ELECTIONS WAS REPORTEDLY 84.5 PER CENT, SA DEC PROVINCE BEING HIGHEST WITH 97 PER CENT AND CAN THO CITY LOWEST WITH 56.8 PER CENT.

3. ICCS ACTIVITIES: ICCS REGION VII INDONESIAN AND IRANIAN DELEGATIONS CARRIED OUT TWO OBSERVATIONS THIS WEEK. ONE CONCERNED A GROUND ATTACK NEAR THE PHONG DINH/BA XUYEN BORDER, AND OTHER A KIDNAPPING IN KIEN GIANG PROVINCE.
LEHMANN

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Message Attributes

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CINCPAC HONOLULU HI
CINCPACFLT MAKALAPA HI
CINCPACAF HICKAM AFB HI
CG FMFPAC
CDR USSAG NKP RTAFB
CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER
COMUSMACTHAI
DAO SAIGON AOSOP-OR
FPJMT SAIGON
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Type: TE
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